

**Metropolitan Education Commission**  
**Regional College Access Center**  
**Advisory Group Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, September 24, 2015, 8:30 a.m.

Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, 2250 E. Broadway Blvd. Tucson, AZ

**Attendees:** Dr. June Webb-Vignery, David Rodriguez, Michelle Simon, Mark Tate, Heather Rosinbum, Shawn Graham, Cristina Capriato, Jacob Shirley, Mark Hanna, Darlene Whitmore, Megan Brown, Flor Delin Matus, Celia Williams, Alex Robie, Bob Breault, Gabriela Saenz, Karina Rodriguez, Kelly Cobos, Stacy Flores, Rashad Robinson.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER – DAVID RODRIGUEZ

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL – DAVID RODRIGUEZ

The Roll Call was conducted; a Quorum was present.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – DAVID RODRIGUEZ

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was recited by all attendees.

4.0 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS – DAVID RODRIGUEZ

RCAC Coordinator David Rodriguez welcomed everyone to the meeting and began introductions of attendees. David outlined the MEC and RCAC's function and mission.

5.0 APPROVAL OF MAY 7, 2015 RCAC MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve: Michelle Simon

Second: Shawn Graham

Motion approved unanimously.

6.0 RCAC UPDATES – DAVID RODRIGUEZ

The MEC's RCAC is part of the state AmeriCorps program. Twenty-four Student Ambassadors will be selected and participating in the following high schools: Desert View, Pueblo, Star Academy, Sentinel Peak, Cholla, Catalina, Palo Verde, Flowing Wells. Scholarship successes at Desert View High School this year were outstanding.

The Pima County Library Summer Program was a success stated Michelle Simon. Youth showed up in good numbers. They worked on SAT and ACT test taking which emulated true test taking. The first day was attended by mostly Juniors and Senior who understood the importance of the test. The second day was attended by more Freshmen and Sophomores who did not understand this importance as much. Students signed up for College GreenLight and started using the RCAC website. Students also created a Me Anything space. The Library will focus on the new SAT twice a year. David is also working with Arizona Learn to Earn

## 7.0 PROVIDER ANNOUNCEMENTS – DAVID RODRIGUEZ

Alex Robie – Arizona Assurance described and charts distributed which helped to clarify how the Assurance scholarships work. These are coupled with other support activities and the GPA has not changed;

Shawn Graham – Pima Community College's enrollment has declined and recruitment is underway for the TUSD College Night. PCC will have the ballroom next door. PCC's sports teams are doing well;

Michelle Simon – Pima County Library would like a partnership with all attending this morning's meeting. The library has electronic resources for college readiness. She mentioned President Obama's Library Challenge. The library offers free tutoring and there are live tutors on line 7 days a week;

Mark Tate, Andrada Polytechnic High School, Vail, stated that the Vail School District's Bond Package passed and more students are now enabled to study in pathways geared toward engineering and communications (STEM);

Heather Rosenbum, University Earn to Learn, described U/A Freshman and Sophomore retention and introduced Jacob Shirley who will be in charge of U/A student recruiters partnering with high schools for the evening programs;

Jacob Shirley outlined the student recruiters activities and application workshops;

Stacy Flores introduced herself as the TAP and Project More High School Counselor; Celia Williams, Arizona Serve, is in charge of executing the Tucson Mayor's AmeriCorps State Grant and working with the 24 RCAC Student Ambassadors;

Kelly Cobos, Desert View High School Counselor described the rebuilding of the Desert View program for college access. This includes five million plus dollars in scholarship funds and a Parent Night which last year drew 250 parents (expectation from past experience very low) and this year 300 parents. She is using marketing techniques and a new kiosk to get the word out about college access and working with the Arizona application campaign. Desert View will hold a Financial Night in December;

Katrina Rodriguez, Grand Canyon University, described their Midnight Madness, Get on the Bus campaigns and the Human Anatomy workshop;

Gabriela Saenz, Palo Verde High School, is an AmeriCorps intern;  
Megan Brown is with Arizona Serve and from the University of Michigan;

Flor Delin Matus of Arizona Earn to Learn described how the program has grown. Presently they are targeting more Juniors and probably meeting with about eight students a day. The potential value of these scholarships is over \$16,000 and funding is now available for the first three years of college;

Mark Hanna, PCC Board of Governors, stated that yes, some students are not prepared for college and PCC meets them where they are. There are multiple assessments (partnering with Vail). PCC is moving to Guided Pathways which is almost like high school. Classes are on a specific schedule and these are guaranteed to be held. With this plan students will finish their degrees and graduate on time. There is a potential partnership with Fiat/Chrysler. PCC For Me is under the new Director of Enrollment Joi Stirrup;

Julie Casper described the Center for Refugee Students and urged meeting attendees to become acquainted with the Valley Foundation;

Darlene Whitmore, Pima Prevention Partnership, described their schools 78% graduation rate and student acquisition of \$200,000 in scholarships. PPP was awarded a Wellness grant where students can talk through their grief (many of PPP students are in foster care). Many PPP students' schedules will not allow them to go to school on a regular schedule. She is excited about Tucson College Night and implementing College Day Fridays at PPP. One difficulty she has experienced is for students to receive in-state tuition. "Dependency Override" was suggested by Alex Robie. Darlene also described the Angel Heart pajama project which provides pajamas and a book to youth;

Cristina Capriato is the newest staff member of Arizona Learn to Earn;

Rashad Robinson is a staff member of the TUSD Mexican American Studies Program. The office is at Wakefield which also houses several other programs. On October 22, 2015, the Family Resource Center will hold an Open House from 5:00 – 7:30 pm. Help is available for Saturday math tutoring, 10:00am – 2:00pm, at Pistor, Pueblo, Valencia, Pueblo Gardens, Rincon;

Dr. Bob Breault discussed education issues especially with the Arizona legislature. He does interviews for Yale University and one of the major attributes this university is looking for is leadership.

## 8.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Shawn Graham

Second: Michelle Simon

Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Approved 12/17/2015